

ABSTRACT

A sputtering target comprising a substrate and a target material formed on the substrate, wherein the target material comprises a metal oxide of the chemical formula  $MO_x$  as the main component, wherein  $MO_x$  is a metal oxide which is deficient in oxygen as compared with the stoichiometric composition, and M is at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Nb, Ta, Mo, W, Zr and Hf, a process for its production, and a method for forming a film having a high refractive index.

000502 "20162260